

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 33, 35 and 67 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 9 and 10 are independent. Claims 2-6, 11-16, 26, 32 and 36-39 are withdrawn from consideration. All of the pending claims stand rejected. By this amendment, claims 1 and 10 are amended. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 33 and 67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,064,504 to Minakuchi et al. ("Minakuchi"). Claim 35 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Minakuchi.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 is directed to a two-dimensional scanning apparatus and recites, *inter alia*, "a deflector" that two-dimensionally deflects the light beam.

Minakuchi discloses a scanning optical device in, e.g., column 1, lines 45-46, but does not disclose the two-dimensional scanning apparatus as claimed. For example, Minakuchi discloses in column 1, lines 45-46 "deflector for deflecting the light beam from the light source" but there is simply no indication in this reference that the deflector is a two-dimensional deflector as recited in claim 1 of the present invention. As Applicant understand it, Minakuchi relates to a laser beam printer or a similar device which normally relates to a one-dimensional scanning, and is not invented in consideration of a two-dimensional scanning. This is also

apparent from the drawings of Minakuchi drawn for an optical system of a one-dimensional scanning .

Moreover, a portion of Minakuchi describes that "... the scanning optical device includes ... a mechanism for adjusting the relative position of at least one lens element of the scanning lens with respect to other lens element of the scanning lens in an auxiliary scanning direction. Preferably, the scanning optical device further includes a linear image forming lens that is disposed between the light source and the deflector ..." (col. 1., lines 45-55) Therefore, the linear image forming lens of Minakuchi appear to be a lens disposed in the light-source side of the deflector. In contrast, the optical surface of the present invention is disposed in the surface-to-be-scanned side of the deflector.

Claim 9, in addition to the two-dimensional feature of the scanning apparatus as discussed above, further recites that the tilt angle of the optical surface is larger than the maximum field angle. The Examiner asserted in the Office Action that Minakuchi discloses this feature in column 7 lines 11-30 along with Fig. 6. [page 4, Office Action] However, Applicant believes that there is no such teachings in Minakuchi including the cited portion.

Claim 10, in addition to the two-dimensional feature of the scanning apparatus as discussed above, further recites, *inter alia*, that "a direction in which the surface to be scanned is tilted relative to the central axis and a direction in which the optical surface is tilted relative to the central axis are the same direction."

Applicant further believes that Minakuchi fails to show or suggest this aspect of the present invention. Applicant notes that a portion of Minakuchi describes that "fine adjustment of the elements of the scanning optical device is performed by measuring the tilt, curvature, and the like of the image plane." See, e.g., column 7, lines 1-5 of Minakuchi. However, the cited

description of Minakuchi merely relates to the adjustment of the elements of the scanning optical device, i.e., Minakuchi does not disclose that "a direction in which the surface to be scanned is tilted relative to the central axis and a direction in which the optical surface is tilted relative to the central axis are the same direction" as specifically recited in claim 10 as amended.

Accordingly, each of claims 1, 9 and 10, with or without amendment, is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited reference (i.e., Minakuchi) for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art. Also, Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

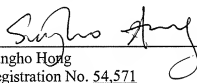
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5177). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 19, 2008

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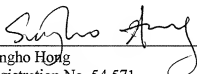
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